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| APPLICATION NO.  | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.           | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|--|-------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|------------------|
| 10/624,772   | 07/22/2003  | Eric T. Stubbs       | 2269-4364, 1US<br>(00-0252.0) | 6777             |
| 24247  | 7590        | 08/25/2004           | EXAMINER<br>YOHA, CONNIE C    |                  |
| TRASK BRITT<br>P.O. BOX 2550<br>SALT LAKE CITY, UT 84110 |             |                      | ART UNIT<br>2818              | PAPER NUMBER     |

DATE MAILED: 08/25/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

|                              |                               |                               |  |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| <b>Office Action Summary</b> | Application No.<br>10/624,772 | Applicant(s)<br>STUBBS ET AL. |  |
|                              | Examiner<br>Connie C. Yoha    | Art Unit<br>2818              |  |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
  - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
  - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
  - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 October 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 24 October 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.



### Attachment(s)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>7/03</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

### DETAILED ACTION

1. This office acknowledges receipt of the following items from the Applicant:  
Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) filed on 7/22/03 was considered.
2. Claims 1-8 are presented for examination.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claim 1-6, 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Furuno et al, Pat. No. 5444663.

With regard to claim 1, Furuno discloses a memory device comprising: a memory array (fig. 1, MARY) for storing at least one data bit and configured to electrically operate from a power supply voltage (fig. 1, Vpp); and a circuit (fig. 2, Voltage Follower) configured to receive an external reference voltage (fig. 2, Vref) and generate in response thereto an internal reference voltage (fig. 2, Vc) independent of the power supply voltage, the internal reference voltage for accessing and evaluating the at least one data bit in the memory array (col. 8, line 29-59).

With regard to claim 2, Furuno discloses the memory device further comprising data input/output circuitry (fig. 1, DOB(X8), DIB(X8)) coupled to the memory array (fig.

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1, MARY) and further coupled and responsive to the internal reference voltage of the circuit (col. 6, line 17-48).

With regard to claim 3, Furuno discloses the memory device further comprising an address register (fig. 1, XADB) coupled and responsive to the internal reference voltage of the circuit (col. 3, line 53-61).

With regard to claim 4, Furuno discloses wherein the internal reference voltage generated by the circuit tracks follows the external reference voltage (fig. 2) (col. 8, line 29-59) (also with regard to claim 5 and 6).

With regard to claim 8, memory device further comprising circuitry for configuring the memory device (fig. 1, CONT) as one of a DRAM, SRAM, Rambus memory, double data rate memory and flash memory (col. 6, line 49-67).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Furuno et al, Pat. No. 5444663 in view of Annema, Pat. No. 6124704.

With regard to claim 7, Furuno, as applied in prior rejection, disclosed all claimed subject matter except wherein the circuit comprising a plurality of voltage followers

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serially coupled to receive the external reference voltage and generate in response thereto the internal reference voltage. However, Annema discloses a circuit comprising a plurality of voltage followers serially coupled (fig. 4, VF) to receive the external reference voltage ( $V_{rft}$ ) and generate in response thereto the internal reference voltage ( $V_{rf}$ ) (col. 4, line 10-39). It would have been obvious for an ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to incorporate Annema's device into Furuno's to obtain or to use the plurality of voltage follower circuits for the purpose of aiding in stabilizing the reference voltage in the device (col. 4, line 28-33).

### ***Conclusion***

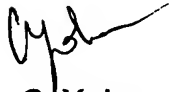
5. When responding to the office action, Applicants' are advised to provide the examiner with the line numbers and page numbers in the application and/or references cited to assist the examiner to locate the appropriate paragraphs.

6. A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 (three) months and 0 (zero) day from the date of this letter. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned (see MPEP 710.02 (b)).

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to whose telephone number is (571) 272-1799. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. - Fri. from 8:00 A.M. to 5:30 PM. The examiner's supervisor, David Nelms, can be reached at (571) 272-1787. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 872-9306. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-0956.

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8. information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov> should you have questions on access to the Private Pair system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



C. Yoha

May 2004



Connie C. Yoha

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